

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) In a television system in which at least program title information for programs which are to be transmitted in the future is transmitted in advance to form a channel guide list, apparatus comprising:

memory means for storing data representing said channel guide list, data representing program descriptive text, and an e-mail address, said memory means storing and user-entered data representing a user entered text string which is used for searching said channel guide list and said program descriptive text;

data entry means for entering said user-entered data;

control means for performing a search of said channel guide listing and said program descriptive text for a to match to said specific user entered information as to return at least two different television programs wherein said at least two different programs have different program titles where said search term matches a term in the title of one program from said at least two different programs and said user entered information matches the descriptive text corresponding to a second program of said at least two different programs;

on-screen display means for displaying text or graphics under control of said control means; and

means for selecting a television program for viewing;

~~upon successful conclusion of said search,~~ said control means sends after said at least two different programs are determined an electronic message to the user at the e-mail address to notify said user of an availability

of said at least two different television programs, wherein said control means further transmits to said e-mail address electronic messages comprising additional television programs listings different from said at least two television programs and where such additional television program listings are selected from updated program guide information that match at least one of: a program title of said additional television programs and program descriptive text of said additional television programs said until said search operation is terminated.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, when television program-descriptive text ~~accompanies said channel guide list, said control means performs a search of said television program-descriptive text for a particular text string which may~~ relates to at least one of a ~~to~~ title, star, director, or context of said television program.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein, in response to user-entered data said control means controls said on-screen display means to display a list of user-entered search criteria, and user-entered instructions for execution after successful completion of each search.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein, said on-screen user-entered instructions for execution after successful completion of each search include instructions to record said at least two television programs and instructions to notify the user of an availability of said television program by sending said electronic message to said user.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 further including a remote control unit wherein, said user-entered data is entered by means of a screen displayed keyboard operated by selecting keys of said keyboard via cursor commands transmitted by said remote control unit.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, said user-entered search criteria form logically-ORed search terms.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, said user-entered search criteria form logically-ANDed search terms.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, said user-entered search criteria form logical compound statements employing logic operators, such as AND, OR, NOT, or XOR to logically-connect search terms.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) In a television system in which at least program title information for programs which are to be transmitted in the future is transmitted in advance to form a channel guide list,
a television program searching method, comprising the steps of:

storing in a memory means data representing said channel guide list, data representing program descriptive text, an e-mail address, and storing user-entered data representing a user entered in text string which is used for searching said channel guide list and said program descriptive text;

performing a search of said channel guide listing and said program descriptive text to match said specific user entered information as to return at least two different television shows where said at least two different television programs have different program titles where said search term matches a term in the title of one of said at least two different programs and said user entered information matches a term of the descriptive text corresponding to a second program from said at least two different programs for a match to specific user-entered information; and

sending an electronic message to a user at the e-mail address as to notify said user of an availability of said at least two different television programs, and

repeating said sending step with further electronic messages comprising additional television programs listings which are different than said at least two different program listings and where said additional television program listings are selected from updated program guide information that match at least one of: a program title of said additional television programs and program descriptive text of said additional television programs, until said search operation is terminated.

upon successful conclusion of said search sending an e-mail message to said e-mail address in response to a user request.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein, ~~when said~~
television program-descriptive text ~~accompanies said channel guide list,~~
~~including the further step of:~~

~~performing a search of said television program-descriptive text~~
~~for a particular text string which may~~ comprises information related to at least
one of relate to a title, star, director, or context of said television program.

Claims 13-18 (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein said
electronic message is an e-mail message.

Claim 20 (cancelled)

21 (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said user
entered data is entered via a data entry means.